

Independence Classical Academy Governing Board

Board Workshop Minutes

February 9th, 2022 @ 5pm – School Cafeteria

2902 S. Jenkins Road Fort Pierce, FL

Agenda Items

Meeting called to order at 5:03pm by Chairman Becton. Pledge and roll call to follow. In attendance: Chairman Clay Becton, Vice-Chair Art Cross, Board members Sandra Crouch & Debbie Kicliter-Kelley, Director of Operations Sandy Krischke, Parent Melissa Triplett, and two new parents Mr. & Mrs. Springer (incoming Kindergarten student). Absent: Board member Cathy Townsend

Chairman Becton welcomed the guests in attendance and introduced board to the guests.

Mrs. Krischke presented to the board a proposed org chart for growth model over the next 5 years, projected enrollment, and the budget pertaining to those numbers. Phase two was discussed and high school expansion was reviewed. Teacher recruitment and retention was discussed, as well as the launch of a marketing plan to promote student return to didactic learning environment. The budgets to support the growth plan will be modified as we reach peak enrollment and teacher salary allocations are determined. After discussion on culture, mission/vision, and current re-enrollments, the decision to postpone expanding into high school for 2022/23 was approved unanimously after a motion by Sandra Crouch to “hold off on high school expansion and focus on early grades to build the culture and academic successes”, the motion was seconded by Debbie Kicliter-Kelley, and approved 4-1. Ms. Krischke will direct Principal Gavin to contact the 8th grade families to advise them of the decision, so appropriate action can be taken to secure HS placement for those looking to return. Ms. Krischke will be focused on filling seats to maximum capacity on current campus to save funds on expansion for one more year and continue to build the school within our community. A town hall for teacher recruitment will be held in late March after the fair.

Marketing was discussed to focus on lower grades. Fair exposure will be great with students reciting the pledge/preamble at multiple events, sponsoring the “AG-tivity” center, and the rodeo, as well as having a table in the community building. ESSER funds for non-enrollment will cover marketing materials. Ms. Krischke is working with a videographer to come capture learning and activities to revamp the website and social media as well.

Board discussion on grant funds and expansion was held, and Ms. Krischke presented the board with a loan option at a low interest rate through Building Hope that would allow us access to funding for projects as an “advance” for our ESSER funds (currently ESSER II but in the future ESSER III). Scope of work and terms of the loan were reviewed as presented and on a motion by Arthur Cross and second by Debbie Kicliter-Kelley, it was unanimously approved by the

board to “authorize the funds being advanced via a Building Hope Loan program, and authorizing the Director of Operations to negotiate loan amounts and grant reimbursement payments through BH.” Ms. Krischke will get the appropriate paperwork completed, and upon meeting with the representative from Building Hope, Board Chair will sign appropriate documents and processing should begin shortly thereafter. An update will be given to the board at the April meeting as to the status of projects, funding, and potentially opening of ESSER III once approved.

Discussion on Board Governance and possibility of chartering through IRSC under SB1028 as we move forward with new schools was had. Pros and cons were discussed openly and until rules are posted by legislature or FDOE, no action is really needed. The application is written and ready for submission when the time is right, and the board decides to pursue direction. Discussion item only.

Calendar of events was provided, and discussion on board elections. All three board members (seats 1,3, & 5) are all running to retain a seat on the governing board. To date, no parents of academy students have expressed a desire to serve, but they have until the 23rd of February to announce candidacy, and all appropriate flyers and announcements have been made on bulletin boards, website, social media, etc...

With no further business or public speakers, the next meeting reminder was given, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm. SK 02/10/22